Saskatchewan
Agriculture
and Food

FINAL REPORT

Agriculture Research Branch
Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

19990181

LAYING OUT A BEEF HANDLING FACILITY

Funded by
Technology Adoption Demonstration

March 2002
Prepared by: Tisdale ADD Board #26

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FINAL REPORT: TAD #19990181
" Livestock Handling Facilities Demonstration"

1) Objective

To provide beef producers with hands-on experience in laying out a beef handling facility that adopts the principles of cattle psychology, humane care and cost efficiency.

2) Rationale:

National ID and beef quality assurance are two major opportunities facing beef producers in the new millennium. To properly identify animals and to apply treatments in a safe and proper manner requires good handling facilities. Many producers do not have good facilities and in addition to good plans, they will need basic demonstration to take the mystery out of the technology. In addition an expansion in forage acreage is leading to an expanded cow herd. That means replacing facilities and new facilities for new producers.

3) Activities

A consultant, Edgar Harder P.Ag. was hired to conduct demonstrations and make presentations at seminars. Demonstrations were held at six locations. The consultant visited the farms and assisted the farmer in planning a facility. Coupled with assistance from PFRA and the Ag. Operations Branch, a final draft was prepared. Extension services advertised a field day at each farm. At the field day, information was presented on handling livestock, Quality Assurance Programs, National ID, Ag. Operations act and PFRA assistance programs. After the consultant reviewed his draft facility plan with those attending, the y proceeded to the actual site. On site, the consultant showed how to lay out the plan on the ground using stakes and twine to mark the pens, alleys, handling facilities etc. Producers assisted by placing stakes, getting hands on experience.

In addition to the six field demonstrations, presentations on facilities were made at beef seminars in North Battleford and Tisdale.

At all sites, producers were provided with plans from the Canada Plan Service. They also received handouts on CCIA tags, Ag. Operations Act, and PFRA engineering, water and shelterbelt programs.
The field demonstrations attracted 150 people and the seminars attracted over 200.

The consultant has assisted several producers throughout the Northeast Region following the demonstrations. These consultations range from new, complete holding and handling facilities to major renovations.

The project was successful in assisting farmers in facility design and in providing valuable information on several aspects of livestock management. The consultant picked up a lot of business from contacts through the project.

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4) Personnel in Project:

Livestock and Regulatory Services, Ag Operations Act, Regional Farmstead Engineers
PFRA - Engineering
Extension Branch, SAF,- Agrologists
Edgar Harder P.Ag., Consultant

5) Partnerships:

Extension Service of SAF., Livestock and Regulatory Services of SAF, PFRA